



JOHN NAIMO
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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April 29, 2015

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: John Naimo 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM – A DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER – PROGRAM REVIEW**

We completed a program review of Violence Intervention Program (VIP or Agency), which included a sample of billings from Fiscal Years (FY) 2013-14 and 2014-15. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) contracts with VIP to provide mental health services, including interviewing Program clients, assessing their mental health needs, and implementing treatment plans.

The purpose of our review was to determine whether VIP provided the services and maintained proper documentation, as required by their County contract.

DMH paid VIP approximately \$8.8 million on a cost-reimbursement basis for FY 2013-14 and \$7.6 million for FY 2014-15. The Agency provides services to residents of the First Supervisorial District.

Results of Review

VIP maintained documentation to support the services billed to DMH in accordance with their contract and related guidelines. The Agency completed the Assessments, Client Care Plans, Progress Notes, and Informed Consent forms in accordance with their County contract. In addition, Agency treatment staff had the required qualifications to provide DMH Program services.

Details of our review are attached.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with VIP and DMH. VIP is not required to submit a response to this report, because there are no findings or recommendations.

We thank VIP management and staff for their cooperation and assistance during our review. If you have any questions please call me, or your staff may contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

JN:AB:DC:EB:sd

Attachment

c: Sachi A. Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W., Director, Department of Mental Health
Birgitta Granberg, Board President, Violence Intervention Program
Astrid Heppenstall-Heger, Executive Director, Violence Intervention Program
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
PROGRAM REVIEW
FISCAL YEARS 2013-14 AND 2014-15**

PROGRAM SERVICES

Objective

Determine whether Violence Intervention Program (VIP or Agency) provided the services billed to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) in accordance with their contract and related guidelines.

Verification

We selected 30 (1%) of the 4,526 approved Medi-Cal billings for June and July 2014, which were the most current billings available at the time of our review (February 2015). We reviewed the Assessments, Client Care Plans, Progress Notes, and Informed Consent forms in the clients' charts for the selected billings. The 30 billings represent services provided to 19 clients.

Results

VIP maintained documentation to support the services billed to DMH in accordance with their contract and related guidelines. In addition, the Agency completed the Assessments, Client Care Plans, Progress Notes, and Informed Consent forms in accordance with their County contract.

Recommendation

None.

STAFFING QUALIFICATIONS

Objective

Determine whether VIP's treatment staff had the required qualifications to provide the mental health services.

Verification

We reviewed the California Board of Behavioral Sciences' website and/or the personnel files for 11 (17%) of the 67 VIP treatment staff who provided services to DMH clients during June and July 2014.

Results

Each employee reviewed had the qualifications required to provide the billed services.

Recommendation

None.